

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00438 181013Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /048 W
-----040612 181017Z /13

O 180932Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8788
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SPON, KS, US
SUBJ: KOREAN MEDIA ON PARK TONG SUN CASE

REF: SEOUL 397 (DTG 170851Z JAN 78)

SUMMARY: PTS CASE OVERSHADOWED JAN 18 BY ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL
PRESS CONFERENCE. MAJOR POINTS COVERED: CIVILETTI' STATE-
MENTS TO PRESS AND JUSTICE VICE MINISTER YI'S PRAISE FOR
CIVILETTI; RELEASE OF MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU); PROSPECTS
FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF SEOUL INTERROGATION TRANSCRIPT
SIGNED BY PTS IN LIEU OF PERSONAL TESTIMONY, AND CONG CAPUTO'S
PROPOSAL FOR CLOSED-DOOR TESTIMONY. END SUMMARY.

1. CIVILETTI SPOKE TO PRESS AT EMBASSY AND AGAIN AT AIRPORT
BEFORE DEPARTING 1440 JANUARY 17. PRESS GAVE WIDE COVERAGE
TO STATEMENTS THAT: "AN EXTREMELY SMALL NUMBER" OF INDICTMENTS
APPEAR LIKELY, WITH NO CURRENT US OFFICIALS INCLUDED;
DESPITE MOU RESTRICTIONS, QUESTIONING WAS "VIRTUALLY
UNRESTRICTED; PTS WILL GO TO US EIGHT WEEKS AFTER
END OF INTERROGATION. CIVILETTI PRAISES "EXCELLENT
COOPERATION OF ROKG" AND PROMISES, ACCORDING TO AM
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CHOSUN ILBO, "TO CONTACT CONGRESS TO SEE THAT PTS NOT
TESTIFY IN CONGRESS". SEVERAL PAPERS NOTE QUESTION TO
CIVILETTI, "WAS PTS QUESTIONED AS TO RELATIONSHIP WITH
ROKG OFFICIALS", A: "THE CONTENTS OF THE QUESTIONING HAD
TO DO WITH THE SALE OF RICE".

2. ALL PAPERS REPORT JUSTICE VICE MINISTER YI JONG WON'S

AIRPORT STATEMENT THAT THE RESPECTS CILILETTI'S "FOR-BEARANCE AND PERSEVERANCE". SEMI-OFFICIAL KYONGHYANG ILBO ADDS, QUOTE: "HIS STATELY BEARING AND BROAD KNOWLEDGE EARN RESPECT FOR AMERICAN OFFICIALDOM. THESE QUALITIES HAVE BEEN EVIDENT IN THE EARLIER NEGOTIATIONS AND IN THE INTERROGATION, AS HAVE HIS PASSION AND CONVICTION IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY'S INTERESTS." TONE OF ALL PRESS COMMENT ON CIVILETTI GENERALLY RESPECTFUL.

3. CHOSUN ILBO QUOTES Y JONG WON AS SAYING TIME AND DATE ARE NOT YET AGREED UPON FOR SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE OF MUTUAL PROSECUTION ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT.

4. ALL PAPERS REPORT, MOST WITH VERBATIM TEXT BUT WITHOUT COMMENTARY, RELEASE OF MOU.

5. CHUNGANG ILBO'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT REPORTS THAT, AT CONG CAPUTO'S SUGGESTION, HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE HAS NOW AGREED TO ACCEPT CLOSED-DOOR TESTIMONY FROM PTS, INSISTING ON OPEN TESTIMONY LATER ONLY IF CLOSED SESSION REVEALS NEED FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST INCUMBENT CONGRESSMEN. ALSO QUOTES JAWORSKI AS SAYING JANUARY 15 THAT HE WANTS KIM DONG JO MORE THAN HE DOES PTS, SPECULATES THAT THIS STATEMENT WILL CAUSE FRICTION WHICH WILL UNDO THE COMMITTEE'S CLOSED-TESTIMONY PLAN.

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6. CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION ON WHETHER CONGRESS WILL ACCEPT TRANSCRIPT IN LIEU OF PERSONAL TESTIMONY. HANKUK ILBO FLATLY PREDICTS THAT JAWORSKI WILL REFUSE ANY COMPROMISE.

7. PROSECUTOR MICHEL IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE LIE DETECTOR WAS USED ON JANUARY 17, AND THAT QUESTIONING "AW WE PLAN IT, WILL LAST ONE MORE WEEK".
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: BRIBERY, PRESS COMMENTS, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Format: TEL
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780149/aaaabpkm.tel
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